

WHY SHOULD GROWERS PRACTICE IPM?

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I have been asked to write an article answering the question of why growers should practice Integrated Pest Management (IPM). The question seems to presume that many growers do not practice IPM. It is my professional opinion that virtually all Maine growers have at least a basic knowledge of what IPM is and that they utilize IPM practices as much as they individually feel is possible for their crops and situations.

Most of the growers reading this have attended numerous talks for pesticide recertification credits where IPM principles have been presented for both crops they grow and crops they don't. Compared to 20 years or more ago, growers now have consider-

able information and understanding of pest identification, pest life cycles, various pest control strategies, pest scouting, and economic thresholds. This information is constantly evolving and certainly needs to continue to be presented. Even growers who may respond to a survey that, "No, I do not use IPM on my farm," are underestimating how they utilize the knowledge of pests and control options that they have learned. Growers generally know who to contact for IPM help with their specific crop situations, whether it be staff at the Department of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Specialists, industry sales representatives, MOFGA, or private crop consultants like me.

There certainly are a few growers out there who control pests with "calendar" sprays—but it is a conscious decision on their part with the knowledge and comfort level that they have for implementing broader IPM practices on their farms. Growers adopt IPM practices to optimize crop yields and crop quality—which will hopefully result in positive returns to the bottom line. IPM is not a pesticide reduction strategy, but rather an informed pest control strategy that has benefits for both the environment and

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TIPS TO AVOID VIOLATIONS

✗ The Worker Protection Standard (WPS) is a federal law that covers all farms, forests, nurseries and greenhouses. If you grow crops, hire workers and use pesticides, you need to comply with this law. A key requirement includes posting information at an easily seen, central location: facts about each pesticide application, emergency contact information and an EPA WPS safety poster. Also, all WPS handlers and workers must receive WPS approved training. The training and who attended should be recorded. To review all WPS protections that employers must provide, visit our Web site.

✗ Labels must list the type of area (e.g., crop, turf, right of way, building, etc.) to be treated. Do not take it for granted that a new label still lists the same areas as a previous label. You must follow the directions on the label of the product you are currently using and only treat the areas (sites) listed.

✗ All pesticide regulations apply to both licensed and unlicensed growers. The benefit of a pesticide license is that it allows for the use of restricted pesticides and formally connects the licensed applicator with the pesticide education system.

✗ Records are required for each application made, and must be recorded on the day of the application. We recommend using the Pesticide Applicator Log, which is available through Extension's Pest Management Office (1-800-287-0279). When filled out completely, the log fulfills all recording requirements.

✗ All PPE listed on the label for mixing and application must be worn. There are no exceptions to this rule.



✗ Pesticide storage must be safe and secure. Pesticides stored where children can reach them are not safe and secure.

✗ Private applicators are not licensed to make applications for others except as a trade for services (e.g., a pesticide application in trade for tractor work, equipment repair, labor, etc.). No money, goods or crops can be exchanged for the application.

✗ Mixing and loading cannot take place within 50 feet of any surface water.

Questions? Not sure you're in compliance?
Call BPC to schedule a courtesy inspection.

AG TRADES SHOW

RECERTIFICATION CREDIT MEETINGS

JAN 11-13
AUGUSTA CIVIC CENTER

Each session is one hour, one credit each. Entire hour must be attended for credit.

TUES, JAN 11

KENNEBEC/PENOBSCOT ROOM

11:00 Managing Problem Weeds and Upgrading Your Pastures - Rick Kersbergen, UMCE

1:30 Sustainable Options for Managing Weeds in Corn - John Jemison, UMCE

3:00 Compost Tea - Fact or Fiction? - Chris Reberg-Horton, UMCE

4:15 Forest Insect and Christmas Tree Pest Management - Dick Bradbury, MFS

WED, JAN 12

KENNEBEC/PENOBSCOT ROOM

9:00 European Fire Ant: A Concern for New England's Green Industry - Ellie Groden, U-Maine

11:30 Pesticide Resistance - Andre Alyokhin, U-Maine

1:15 Potato Pest Management - UMCE Potato Specialist

2:30 Potato Pest Management - UMCE Potato Specialist

4:30 Small Fruit Pest Management - David Handley, UMCE

No credit for this part—only exams.

LINCOLN/OXFORD ROOM

9:00 Private Pesticide Applicator Core Exam Training - Jim Dill, UMCE & Gary Fish, BPC

1:00 Private Pesticide Applicator Core & Commodity Exams Administered

THU, JAN 13

KENNEBEC/PENOBSCOT ROOM

9:00 How to Survive a Pesticide Inspection - Gene Meserve, Pesticide Inspector, BPC

10:15 Potential Effects of Blueberry Pesticides on Atlantic Salmon Populations - Adria Elskus, USGS

11:30 Blueberry Pest Management - David Yarborough, UMCE

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WHY IPM? (CONT...)

the farmer. Significant gains in knowledge and adoption of IPM among growers have occurred over the past twenty to thirty years. We have indeed come a long way! We need to continue to educate new growers and bring forward new techniques and ideas for all growers.

I feel that we are now at a level where we will not see a significant change in adoption of IPM among growers without a new incentive. A marketing strategy that promotes Maine growers who use IPM practices on their farms may be the next “big thing” that will bump up the use of IPM among growers. This will be very difficult. Marketing initiatives are expensive and it is difficult to develop a marketing strategy that applies to all Maine’s diverse

crop mix. Do grower groups even want to remind consumers that we have to control “pests” in the course of producing their food? “Integrated pest management” is a difficult concept to convey to the masses. Other states and regions have done it though. There are groups and individuals in the Maine who have been discussing this for some time now. This is a concept that needs to be explored and discussed more thoroughly in Maine’s agriculture circles.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? *Lauchlin’s perspective has raised interesting food for thought on the future of IPM. We ask readers to share their opinions on IPM for possible publication. Responses should be no more than 350 words and may be sent to our office via e-mail or mail. Not all responses will be printed, but all will be posted on our Web site.*

IT’S ON THE WEB

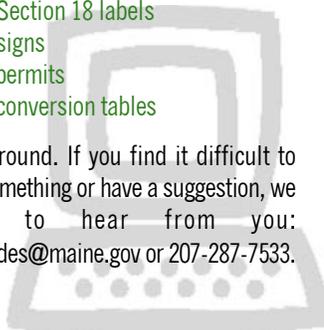
In this day and age, everything isn’t coming up roses—it’s coming up Web. And at www.thinkfirstspraylast.org, the BPC’s Web site, it’s no exception. A click of the mouse puts you in touch with

- ▶ municipal pesticide ordinances
- ▶ credit meeting calendar
- ▶ pesticide regulations
- ▶ latest Board business
- ▶ license and exam fees
- ▶ recent enforcement actions
- ▶ water quality reports

A couple more clicks, and you’ll find the **Download Library** where forms and applications are collected in one spot:

- ▶ applications for exams and licenses
- ▶ Section 18 labels
- ▶ signs
- ▶ permits
- ▶ conversion tables

Surf around. If you find it difficult to find something or have a suggestion, we want to hear from you: pesticides@maine.gov or 207-287-7533.



CALIBRATION

If two heads are better than one, as the old saying goes, should twice the application rate be twice as nice? Absolutely not!

Applying too much pesticide is costly and unlawful. It also can damage crops or other plants and animals and result in illegal residues raising food safety concerns.

On the other hand, using too little pesticide may result in poor pest control, contribute to pesticide resistance and make retreatment necessary.

Protecting the environment and saving money are two common concerns of growers. But calibration of application equipment—a practice that can do both—isn’t common enough.

“A 30 minute calibration could save a grower thousands of dollars not just in chemical expenses but in lost yield. Plus, calibration is legally required, so not doing it could result in a fine,” says Gary Fish, Board of Pesticides Control certification specialist.

Need a calibration refresher? Below is a collection of Web sites with the how-tos. These links are also available on our Web site.

HAND OPERATED SPRAYERS

- www.extension.iastate.edu/publications/pm1271.pdf
- www.cheiron-resources.com/CALIBRATING%20BACKPACK%20SPRAYERS.pdf
- www.pesticidesafety.uiuc.edu/facts/calibration/turfspraygunsheet.pdf

GRANULE SPREADERS

- ohioline.osu.edu/b817/b817_10.html
- www.state.sd.us/doa/das/granular%20application%20equipment%20calibration.pdf

BOOM SPRAYERS

- ohioline.osu.edu/aex-fact/0520.html
- northeastipm.org/saremod/calib.pdf
- muextension.missouri.edu/explore/agguides/agengin/g01270.htm

AIRBLAST SPRAYERS

- www.ento.vt.edu/Fruitfiles/calib.html
- cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/eb1575/eb1575.html
- www.umass.edu/fruitadvisor/clements/trvcalculator.html

MIST BLOWERS

- chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/ento/mpmh/chap4.htm

GENERAL

- www.pbjgordon.com/consumer_products_product_pages/calibration_guide.pdf
- entweb.clemson.edu/pesticid/safyed/apequip.htm

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